



Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council  
1706 E. Elm Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
573-751-8611/800-500-7878/573-526-2755 (FAX)  
*Kit Stahlberg, Chairperson* *Vicky Davidson, Executive Director*

[www.moddcouncil.org](http://www.moddcouncil.org)

Michael L. Parson,  
Governor

## Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council Public Policy Platform 2019

### **Employment:**

Advocate for policies and services that increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have jobs they want, in the community alongside their non-disabled co-workers, with living wages and benefits.

Support and advocate for an implementation plan to phase out the use of subminimum wage.

Support and advocate for policies, initiatives, and services that lead to more employment and other community-based activities when people are not working.

Support implementation of the Missouri Employment First plan so that paid employment is the first option considered for all people with disabilities.

Engage in and support education and awareness strategies that increase transition-aged youth and their families' understanding and support of the development of employment skills before graduation.

Promote policies and practices that improve what schools, state agencies, service providers, and others do to help students with disabilities successfully transition from high school to work, college, and the adult service system.

### **Transportation:**

Support policies and funding allocations that will increase the availability of reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation.

### **Early Intervention:**

Advocate for early childhood services that supports children with and without disabilities together and prepares them all for school.

Advocate for and support policies, laws, funding, training and technical assistance that increase access to high quality, inclusive early childhood care and education and out of school time activities where children and youth with disabilities learn and play alongside their peers without disabilities.

### **Education:**

Promote and support legislation, regulations, policies, and funding that result in more students with disabilities educated in the least restrictive environment with access to the general education curriculum, appropriate assessments and the services and supports needed to succeed, as required by state and federal law.

Promote and support strategies that prepare teachers to teach students with disabilities in general education classrooms.

Support the development and expansion of post-secondary education options, including dual enrollment programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with meaningful access to academics and campus life. Advocate for post-secondary experience that embraces disability and is free from barriers.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer; services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.*

### **Health and Dental:**

Support health care and dental policies and services that address the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

**Targeted Disparity:**

Value a model of diversity that is inclusive of disability, race, ethnicity, culture, age, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

Value, support and promote cultural and linguistic competence in our services and supports, training activities, research, and dissemination efforts.

Recognize that equality is not the same as equity; supporting and promoting policies and processes that provide truly equitable experiences that are responsive to strengths and differences.

Support and advocate for public policy and laws that ensure equitable rights, treatment, and experiences afforded to all Missourians, regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, culture, age, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

Embrace diversity in all our endeavors to include presence, perspective, input, ideas, and feedback.

Cultivate the ongoing personal and organizational journey to understand and accept diverse perspectives.

**Advocacy:**

Support people with developmental disabilities and their family members throughout Missouri to advocate for themselves and others, develop leadership skills, exercise choice and control over their lives, and have a meaningful role in shaping public policies, programs and services that affect them.

Support and promote education, training, and information dissemination to increase skills, knowledge, and understanding of issues of importance to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Support and cultivate advocacy leadership efforts through the use of grassroots community organizing and coalition building to create systems change.

**Community Living:**

Promote policies and supports that result in people with developmental disabilities maximizing control over their own lives.

Support and promote policies and practices that improve health, security, and safety of people with disabilities.

Support and promote policies and practices that improve capacity of first-responders to work with people with disabilities.

Advocate for public policy and laws that promote alternatives to guardianship that impact people with disabilities.

Support and advocate for the rights of individuals who express an interest in community based services and supports to receive information and resources to assist them in transitioning from institutions, nursing homes, and other more restrictive settings to the community. Support expansion of high quality community based options and supports.

Increase the availability and quality of formal and informal supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

Support people with disabilities, their families, stakeholders, communities, and state emergency management directors to improve their emergency preparedness, planning, and policies.